

INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:

GCG Rescue 1

Fighting AIDS
in Georgia 1

Peace Corps
Anniversary 2

Empowering
Women in
Georgia 3

International
Day of
Persons with
Disabilities 4

MCC Second
Compact 4

USAID
Initiatives 5

Georgian
Donor
Coordination 6

Democracy
Commission 6

Senaki-Poti
Gas Pipeline 6

CDC
Epidemiology
Training 7

INL/ DOJ 8

USAID G-PAC 9

PAS Media
Partnership 9

DTRA/ ICP 9

UMCOR 10

EXBS/ Support
to GCG 10

U.S. Assistance to Georgia

MARCH 2011

Georgian Coast Guard Uses USG-Donated Vessels to Rescue People

On February 8, the Georgian Coast Guard (GCG) rescued eleven people from a sinking vessel when its hull was damaged during a strong storm surge. Among those rescued were citizens of Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Russia. The Coast Guard responded using a U.S. Government donated patrol craft.

This was the second major rescue in recent weeks by the GCG. On January 23, the Coast Guard also used a USG-donated vessel to rescue five people. Fifty years since it was first commissioned, this former US Coast Guard "Point Class" boat is still protecting coastlines and rescuing citizens. With the ongoing USG supported refurbishment and training, these vessels will continue responding to incidents on the Black Sea for at least another 5-10 years.



Georgian Coast Guard rescues five people near the coast of Batumi.

Since 2008, the Export Control and Border Security (EXBS) program has invested over nine million dollars in technical assistance, materials and equipment to the GCG. With the overall objective of achieving a fully operational and sustainable organization, USG assistance has been focused on raising the professionalism and competence of GCG staff in law enforcement, surveillance and communications, engineering and maintenance.

Georgia and America Build on Success in Fighting HIV/AIDS

On December 1, U.S. Ambassador to Georgia John Bass joined His Holiness Patriarch Ilia II, Vice Speaker Gigi Tsereteli, and Vice Minister of Health Irakli Giorgoniani to commemorate World AIDS Day at the Tbilisi Sports Palace. The event focused on youth – with nearly 16,000 youth from the Tbilisi area attending – and included remarks from dignitaries, performances by popular musicians, and a candlelight vigil.

Since 2002, the U.S. Government, through USAID, has supported voluntary counseling and testing services (VCT) to more than 35,000 people in Georgia through its Georgia HIV Prevention Project. The project has supported VCT services in Tbilisi, Batumi, Kutaisi, and more recently in Telavi and Zugdidi. A mobile medical laboratory service was also initiated to commute between Kutaisi and Batumi and offer counseling and testing to the groups most at risk. The U.S. Government's current five-year, \$6 million HIV Prevention Program will continue these activities to prevent HIV/AIDS in Georgia through direct services to the most at-risk populations.



U.S. Ambassador to Georgia John Bass and Patriarch Ilia II commemorate World AIDS Day.



Peace Corps Celebrates 50 Years and 10 Years in Georgia

In March 2011, the Peace Corps will commemorate 50 years of promoting peace and friendship around the world and 10 years of service to the people of Georgia. All around the world past and present Peace Corps Volunteers, staff and partners will support the agency's mission and legacy of service by honoring Peace Corps' past, demonstrating the program's effectiveness, and inspiring the next generation of Volunteers through education and engagement.

Peace Corps initiated its program in Georgia in 2001 with 21 Volunteers working in secondary education English teaching assignments. Since that time, 386 Peace Corps Volunteers have served the people of Georgia. Peace Corps works in close collaboration with the Georgian Ministry of Education and Science, public schools, and communities that recognize the English language skills can provide Georgian citizens with significant advantages, including increased possibilities to further education and advance careers, the ability to access information and technology, and the opportunity to foster closer relationships with other countries.

Education Volunteers serve in public schools in towns and villages throughout Georgia. They transfer communicative language skills to students, introduce modern teaching methods, help teachers design and deliver lessons with a student-centered focus, develop and enhance teaching

and learning resources for classroom and non-formal instruction. Volunteers in this project help develop skills in critical thinking, problem solving, life skills, healthy lifestyles, HIV/AIDS awareness, environmental awareness, and civic responsibility. They are also actively involved in their communities, assisting in the identification of community needs, appropriate approaches and solutions



"Peace requires the simple but powerful recognition that what we have in common as human beings is more important and crucial than what divides us." - Sargent Shriver

for addressing those needs, identifying and mobilizing resources, and assisting in the implementation of projects to meet challenges faced by their communities.

The Business and Social Entrepreneurship (BSE) project began in 2004 with 10 Volunteers assigned to work in Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) development. In 2007, the project was refocused to provide additional support to small businesses and promote economic development at the grassroots level. Since its inception in 2004, more than 80 Volunteers have served in this project.

The Business and Social Entrepreneurship (BSE)

project provides support in sustainable project and program development, business skills development, and community-based development initiatives. Volunteers work in NGOs and business support organizations and, together with their Georgian partners, provide assistance to sponsoring agency staff, local government entities, development service providers, local entrepreneurs, and community groups. BSE Volunteers provide training and advice on organizational and program management, business skills, and assistance in establishing sustainable organizations. Volunteers in this project also provide assistance in planning, marketing, and networking.

In addition, Peace Corps Georgia began implementing the Peace Corps Response program which provides opportunities for returned Peace Corps Volunteers to undertake short-term, high impact assignments. Peace Corps Response Volunteers have provided assistance in teacher training, tourism development, and environmental education curriculum development. There are currently 58 Volunteers living and working throughout Georgia in the areas of English education, community and organizational development, and community identified initiatives.

The Peace Corps will be a featured program at the 2011 Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the National Mall in Washington, and Peace Corps Georgia Volunteers and counterparts will be on hand to discuss Georgian art, folklore, and culture, as well as provide hands-on demonstrations of traditional Georgian wine making.

ATIP Fights Against Domestic Violence in Georgia

In October 2010, the Assistance to Victims of Trafficking in Persons (ATIP) Fund Georgia, aided by funding from U.S. Government, started a nationwide awareness campaign against domestic violence. The focus of the campaign is to publicize newly created services for domestic violence victims, such as a new national domestic violence hotline and two new shelters which include counseling and rehabilitation services. The public launch of the domestic violence hotline was in coordination with the 16 days

against gender based violence in November/December 2010. In December, the State Fund for the Protection of and Assistance to Victims of Trafficking in Persons began a bus and billboard campaign. It also began the process of negotiating an SMS campaign with cell companies in Georgia.

Since the launch of the hotline and the opening of the shelters in October 2010, a total of 112 telephone and in person consultations were conducted and the shelters hosted 18 women and 16 children.



Bus campaign to publicize newly created national domestic violence hotline.

tations were conducted and the shelters hosted 18 women and 16 children.

In 2010, police responded to 2,991 cases of domestic violence as compared to

Invest for the Future: Women Driving Economic Growth

On January 24-26, twenty Georgian businesswomen participated in the U.S. government-hosted conference, "Invest for the Future: Women Driving Economic Growth." The conference focused on promoting women entrepreneurs from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece and Turkey through networking opportunities and information sessions on technology, business planning, marketing and finance.



Twenty businesswomen represented Georgia in Istanbul.

Tamar Megrelishvili, owner of a local bookstore, plans to use the marketing skills that she learned to make her business stand out among other businesses in Tbilisi. Providing businesswomen with opportunities to grow professionally is critical to women's success in the economic sphere and is essential for economies to compete in the 21st Century.

1,331 cases in 2009, and 2,576 in 2008. 182 restrictive orders were issued by the police in 2010; among those cases 66

GYLA Raises Awareness of Domestic Violence in the IDP Community

In October 2010, the Georgian Young Lawyer's Association (GYLA) received U.S. Government funding to conduct a domestic violence awareness campaign in Internally Displaced People (IDP) communities. A program, working through May 2011, provides IDPs the tools to protect themselves from gender based violence and legal support for victims and their families.

Since the project began in October, GYLA has conducted 315 consultations via hotline, 442 office consultations, and represented two victims in court. In

October, informational booklets "Domestic Violence and Children," and "Victims of Domestic Violence" were printed along with posters and bookmarks for IDP communities in Tbilisi and the Shida Kartli region providing resource information for victims.

In December, GYLA launched the youth art competition "No to Domestic Violence." Winners will be awarded in a presentation in March. Since October 2010, 58 informational meetings for IDPs on domestic violence issues were held at IDP collective centers throughout Georgia.



Poster for IDP collective centers – raising awareness of GYLA's free legal aid services for domestic violence victims.

involved physical violence, 30 involved psychological abuse, and one case involved sexual violence.

Georgia and U.S. Commemorate International Day of Persons with Disabilities



Handicrafts made by the Union of the Disabled.

On December 3, U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Kent Logsdon joined Georgian government officials and national and international organization representatives for a conference to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

The conference addressed existing policies and programs that have been implemented in line with Georgia's disability action plan and included presentations on programs that enhance

public awareness on the rights and needs of people with disabilities. The conference also included an exhibition featuring photos, video materials, and other products presented by people with disabilities.

The conference was initiated and organized by the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, the U.S. Government-funded project Equal Opportunities for People with Disabilities and its implementers Save the Children and Coalition for

Independent Living. The U.S.-supported six-year Equal Opportunities for People with Disabilities project, implemented through USAID, aims to foster conditions for equal opportunities and the full participation of people with disabilities in the political, economic, and social life of Georgia. The project works with individuals and families in Tbilisi, Adjara, Imereti, and Kakheti regions.

"Being eligible for a second MCC Compact is quite special and we will be working very hard to develop a strong proposal that will help reduce poverty and improve Georgia's economic competitiveness."
Tamar Kovzeridze,
Chief Advisor to the Prime Minister

Ambassador Congratulates Georgia on Eligibility for Millennium Challenge Second Compact



Ambassador Bass with MCC Resident Director Jim McNicholas.

Ambassador Bass congratulated the Georgian Government and people for the Millennium Challenge Board's selection of Georgia as eligible for Millennium Challenge Account assistance. The Ambassador stressed that while eligibility does not guarantee MCC funding for a second compact, it is an essential step forward in MCC's compact development process. Ambassador Bass reiterated that Georgia should fo-

cus on the successful completion of its current Compact in 2011 - \$395 million investments, over the last five years, in infrastructure and economic development.

In January, the Millennium Challenge Corporation's (MCC) Board selected Ghana and Georgia as eligible to develop a second compact proposal. An award of a second compact is contingent upon development of proposals that have a strong potential to increase economic growth and reduce poverty, continued good policy performance, successful completion of the first Millennium Challenge Compact, which will end on April 7th, 2011, and availability of funding.

For the first Compact, the United States provided Georgia \$395.3 million in grants to finance 5 major projects, beginning in April 2006: a 220 kilometer road in southeastern Georgia, rehabilitation works on Georgia's main north-south gas pipeline, grants and financing to agriculture and tourism businesses in the regions of Georgia, and water and sewerage rehabilitation works in five key cities and towns.

During the first week of February, Prime Minister Nika Gilauri and members of his Second Compact Development team travelled to Washington D.C. to meet with MCC CEO Daniel Yohannes for initial consultations to discuss and plan for the second compact proposal development.

USAID Opens New Farm Service Center to Serve More Than 1,000 Farmers



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Shindisi Machinery Center.

USAID Mission Director Jock Conly and Georgian government representatives joined local farmers to mark the opening of the Shindisi Machinery Ser-

vices Center on January 21. USAID has funded the privately-owned Machinery Service Center as part of its Access to Mechanization Project. This project is part of a larger U.S. effort to help build a prosperous Georgia.

Mr. Tvaliashvili, the owner of the Shindisi Machinery Service Center, received a \$143,000 grant from USAID and invested his own funds to build and equip the new service center. The facility is equipped with nine tractors and 29 agricultural implements, and will provide fee-based machinery services such as planting, plowing, and cultivation for local small farmers. The project resulted in the creation of sixteen new jobs, benefited 1,000 farmers, and provided ser-

vices for 2,500 hectares of land in Gori District.

The Access to Mechanization Project is a 30 month, \$5.1 million program under the U.S. Government's \$1 billion pledge to assist the people of Georgia following the August 2008 war. The project is funding the development of up to 30 privately-owned farm machinery service centers throughout Georgia which will increase access to farm machinery services for small farmers. The service centers are expected to create up to 250 new jobs, provide services to 14,000 small farmers, and increase agricultural revenues by \$10 million.

USAID Energy Capacity Initiative Hosts a Job Fair

The USAID-supported Energy Capacity Initiative (ECI) hosted a job fair on December 21, 2010 at Sheraton Metekhi where ECI grantee universities presented their new programs to private and state companies of the Georgian energy sector. The goal of the job fair was to establish relationships between students and companies which will be important for students' future employment.

Initiative is designed to prepare highly qualified specialists with appropriate professional knowledge and skills, for work in the energy sector.

One of the main tasks of the project is development of higher education programs. The following programs have already been launched at four Georgian universities: Energy Demand Side Management at Georgian Technical University; Energy Economics at the International School of Economics at TSU, – Power Industry Technology and Management Master's degree program at Akaki Tsereteli State University; Energy Management concentration at Grigol Kobakhidze University.



ECI Job Fair participants discuss employment prospects.

USAID Sponsored Conference Aims to Strengthen Citizen Networks in Georgia

On December 14, USAID Mission Director Jock Conly joined representatives from the Government of Georgia and Georgian and international organizations to discuss issues regarding social capital. The event was supported by the U.S. Government through USAID and aimed to spark debate and dialogue on the issue of social capital in Georgia among both local and international stakeholders, and to put forward ideas and solutions to tackle the issue.

Social capital refers to the social and cultural norms and networks and the existing level of social trust that people can draw on to work towards common goals, and to solve common problems. The more social capital a society has, the easier it is to collaborate with relative strangers for the general good. The conference and subsequent report, released after the event, are intended to help the international donor community, as well as the Government of Georgia to turn

ideas and solutions into tangible initiatives for the benefit of the Georgian citizenry.

The final report incorporates the findings of the research currently underway and points discussed at the conference. These findings will inform the design of a guide for USAID and other interested stakeholders to develop innovative approaches for enhancing social capital in their on-going activities.

U.S. Participates in Georgian National Donor Coordination Workshop

On December 13, U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Kent Logsdon and U.S. Government representatives participated in the Georgian National Donor Coordination Workshop, sponsored by the Ministry of Finance and held with financial support from the European Union. The event brought together representatives of the government, the donor community and civil society, in order to discuss accom-

plishments since the International Donor Conference for Georgia in Brussels, October 2008.

The donor conference of October 2008 provided significant further stimulus to Georgia's cooperation with international development partners. The participants of the workshop gathered to sum up progress so far in implementing the Brussels donor pledge, to discuss approaches and

methods applied in the context of aid delivery to Georgia, to look at donor coordination from the angle of different sectors, and to exchange views on plans beyond 2010.

U.S. Government representatives joined expert panels on internally displaced persons, tourism development strategy and needs, and criminal justice.

2011 Democracy Commission Small Grants Program Launched

In December, Public Affairs Section grant programs coordinators traveled to all the major regional centers of Georgia to hold consultation meetings with local non-governmental, educational and media organizations. Sofia Gegechkori, Nino Gagua and Giorgi Gabunia discussed program priorities and the application process for the 2011 Democracy Commission Small Grants Program with regional civil

society representatives, encouraging them to apply for the grant competition.

As a result this thorough outreach strategy, PAS received 237 applications, the highest ever number, highlighting the awareness and interest among civil society organizations in the U.S. Embassy Democracy Commission Small Grants program. Proposal review will take place in March, with final award notifications in April.



Cart loaded with Democracy Grants applications.

Construction of Senaki-Poti Gas Pipeline Continues

The Senaki-Poti gas pipeline construction project, funded by USAID through the Power and Gas Infrastructure (PGI) project will provide access to energy for about 25,000 families in Poti, Khobi and adjacent rural areas in the Samegrelo Region.

This will be a new source of fuel, as currently there is no natural gas supply to this region. Natural gas will offset the need for household use of wood, kerosene, liquefied natural gas, diesel, and electricity. Not only will the natural gas supply reduce household fuel cost, but it also has the potential for reducing deforesta-

tion in this area. It will also provide gas to industries in the first Free Industrial Zone (FIZ) in Georgia being developed adjacent to the Poti Black Sea Port facilitating new opportunities for economic growth.

The Poti-Senaki gas pipeline is a 30km and 700mm diameter steel pipeline. The construction works started in September 2010 and are expected to finish by March 2011. USAID is funding \$7 million construction while pipes and a pipeline right-of-way were provided by the Government of Georgia.



Construction at Senaki-Poti gas pipeline.

U.S. CDC Helps Georgia and South Caucasus Build Public Health Capacity to Reduce Risk of Disease Outbreaks

In May 2009, U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) opened its official representation in South Caucasus based at the Georgia National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC), in Tbilisi, Georgia. The main goal of the US CDC Georgia Country Office is to conduct the South Caucasus Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (SC/FELTP). The SC/FELTP is modeled on the principle of "training through service," based on an ongoing training program at the CDC in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. The SC/FELTP is conducted in collaboration with the Ministries of Health and the Ministries of Agriculture of the South Caucasus Countries (Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan), and receives financial support from the US Department of State, Department of Health and Human Services, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency of the Department of Defense.

The SC/FELTP trains epidemiologists, veterinarians, and laboratory specialists in modern techniques of identifying disease outbreaks and their causes, to help strengthen disease control and prevention. The program trainees (known as "residents") occupy entry level and mid-career positions in their country's health system, either public health or veterinary services. Consequently they can easily apply their knowledge in practice, thus enabling SC/FELTP to help

enhance the disease surveillance and control system in the South Caucasus Region.

The SC/FELTP is a two-year program of intensive classroom trainings and field work. The residents attend classroom studies conducted by professionals from CDC Headquarters, other US-based public health institutions, as well as the two CDC advisors stationed at the Georgia NCDC: Dr. Edmond Maes, CDC Office Director and Epidemiology Resident Advisor, and Dr. Thomas Rush, Laboratory Resident Advisor. As part of the program requirements the SC/FELTP residents perform outbreak investigations, conduct surveys, and review disease surveillance systems of the three countries to identify areas for improvement.

The SC/FELTP is one of 45 similar programs operating around the globe. These programs are networked under the guidance of TEPHINET (Training Programs in Epidemiology, and Public Health Intervention Network). TEPHINET also sponsors international conferences at which residents from the various FELTPs compete to have their work selected for presentation and discussion. Twelve of the 45 FELTP type programs currently have advisors from US CDC living in the country where the program is based; the remaining 33 programs have "graduated" and are now operating under the complete direction the country's Ministry of Health or other local institution. Similar to other FELTPs, the long-term goal is that the SC/FELTP achieves this level of independence as well.

SC/FELTP residents have been selected to present findings of their work at international conferences, for example, the 2010 European Scientific Conference of Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology, and the 2010 TEPHINET Conference, where they shared their findings and experience with other specialists.

At present two cohorts, totaling 27 residents are enrolled. The first cohort will graduate in June 2011 at which time a third cohort will begin. Upon completion of the course and field work, the US CDC will issue a certificate of graduation to the SC/FELTP residents. The SC/FELTP and NCDC leadership currently are exploring the possibility to award a Master's Degree to successful graduates of the program.



CDC Georgia Country Office Staff and 2nd Cohort of SC/FELTP-Composed of residents from Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

INL Provides Blood Spatter Interpretation Training at Police Academy

On January 26, the U.S. Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) office sponsored a one-week course at the Police Academy on Blood Spatter Interpretation. David Stephens, the Director of the Forensic Science Division of the Michigan State Police Department, was in charge of the course. The specific goal of the training was to introduce Georgian crime scene investigators and forensic medicine experts to the value of blood stain spatters as evidence in investigations or for court proceedings. The training placed particular emphasis on recognizing the overall value of bloodstain evidence in criminal investigations.

Blood spatter analysis course is part of the Forensic Development Project, a U.S.-Georgian effort to improve the professional capabilities of Georgia's law enforcement agencies. INL collaborates with the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs' Main Forensic Division and L. Samkharauli National Forensic Bureau of Georgia to deliver trainings through a multi-faceted project combining technical assistance, professional exchange programs, equipment donation, and a forensic laboratory accreditation program.



David Stephens, the Director of the Forensic Science Division of the Michigan State Police Department.

DOJ/ RLA Conduct Training on Media and Jury Trials

From 27-30 January, 2011, the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Regional Legal Affairs (RLA) office together with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), hosted a series of trainings for over 60 journalists and legal experts on *Media and Jury Trials*. The trainings were conducted by award-winning TV journalist, Gail Hogan (WCMH-TV) and newspaper correspondent Kevin Mayhood (formerly with The Columbus Dispatch). They were joined by Honorable Judge

Daniel Hogan, and by RLA David DeVillers, both of whom worked at trials that were covered by the journalists.

On January 27, the first seminar took place at the IREX/G-MEDIA office in Tbilisi, and focused on television and print media coverage of jury trials – both from inside and outside the court room – and studied how TV coverage affects cases and how a judge sets some limits on the media to avoid interference with the court proceedings.



Media and Jury Trials training participants.

INL Finances Improved “Shooting Scene Reconstruction”

U.S. Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) sponsored a one week course on shooting scene reconstruction that started on January 17 at the Police Academy. This program is a part of a U.S. Government effort supporting the forensic development project, a partnership between INL and the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs Main Forensic Division, and the L. Samkharauli National Forensic Bureau

of Georgia. Michael Knox, a former crime scene investigator, is teaching the course. The specific goal of the shooting scene reconstruction training was to teach crime scene investigators, homicide detectives, and firearms experts responsible for investigating shooting incidents, the skills needed to reconstruct the events surrounding the shooting. Live-fire exercises and demonstrations will show the student how bullets

impact different surfaces. The U.S. Embassy is working closely with the Georgian Government to improve professional capabilities of both law enforcement and forensic personnel.

The program involves technical assistance, professional exchange programs, equipment donation, and a forensic laboratory accreditation program.

New U.S. Supported Program to Strengthen Civil Society in Georgia



Ambassador John Bass announces new civil society program.

On December 2, the U.S. Ambassador to Georgia John R. Bass joined civil society organization representatives to launch a new U.S. Government program intended to strengthen civil society and accelerate the efficacy of civic leaders and organizations in Georgia. The new Policy, Advocacy and Civil Society Development in Georgia (G-PAC) program, implemented through USAID, is a four-year \$13.3 million project which includes \$3 million for a university-level program to enhance policy discourse by establishing a Master's of Public Policy program.

The G-PAC program builds on over a decade of U.S. Government support for civil society development in Georgia. The project aims to further strengthen civil society's role in developing public policy reforms and advocating for their effective implementation, and will benefit Georgian think tanks, civil society organizations, universities, government, and the public.

Georgian Media Partnership Program

On February 18, the U.S. Embassy in Georgia together with IREX announced the winners of the 2011 Georgian Media Partnership Program (GMPP): **Channel 25** - in Batumi and **Gurjaani TV** - in Gurjaani. These TV stations will be partnered with U.S. broadcasters to form strong, collegial and lasting professional relationships through exchanges, individual consultations and the sharing of best practices. Representatives from Channel 25 and Gurjaani TV will have the opportunity to pay a short visit to the U.S. partner TV station for intensive hands-on consultations. Professionals from the U.S. TV partner outlets will also travel to Georgia to conduct training and on-site consultations with Channel 25 and Gurjaani TV. In addition, virtual consultations will further assist the needs of the Georgian broadcasters to strengthen them as businesses and as sustainable news organizations.

The Georgian Media Partnership Program, funded by the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy and implemented by IREX, aims to promote freedom and independence of the media by supporting the professional growth of Georgian regional TV stations. In December 2010, GMPP held a nationwide contest for Georgian regional broadcasters to participate in the partnership program. Channel 25 and Gurjaani TV were chosen after a very competitive selection process.

International Counterproliferation Program

The International Counterproliferation (ICP) Program has been actively engaged with providing training and equipment to Georgia. Initial program implementation in Georgia began in 1996 where DTRA conducted its first assessment visit followed by the signing of a WMD agreement between the governments of the United States and Georgia in 1997. Following several years of inactivity (1999 – 2003), the ICP Program has remained active in Georgia since 2004 delivering 19 events and training 595 Georgian participants.

In 2010, the ICP Program delivered the "Basic WMD Investigative Analysis" course and the "WMD National Crisis Command Center" exercise. Both events proved very successful by providing training to 53 Georgian officials spanning the MOIA, MOF, NSC, MOH, MOEA, MOD and City of Tbilisi. The exercise provided for multiple Georgian agencies the opportunity to work together in a crisis center in response to a very significant simulated threat. The National Security Council (NSC) ran the exercise cell since Georgian policy identifies the NSC as lead agency for a response to an act of terror to include the use of WMD. The exercise cell was composed of such agencies as: Border Police, Coast Guard, Joint Staff, National Guard, Nuclear Biological and Chemical Response Department, Nuclear and Radiation Safety Service, National Center for Disease Control, Counterterrorism Department, and others.

New Outpatient Clinic Opened in Adjara

A formal opening of the newly renovated outpatient clinic was held on November 8 in the village Mukhaestate, Kobuleti District, Adjara Autonomous Republic. The official opening and ribbon – cutting ceremony was attended by Gerald Oberndorfer, Director of the Office of Humanitarian Programs in Europe and Asia, EUR/ACE, US Department of State, and Levan Antadze, the Minister of Health and Vice Prime Minister of Adjara Autonomous Republic, UMCOR, local municipal officials, NGO community and rural community members.

Mr. Oberndorfer and Minister Antadze cut the ribbon and congratulated the rural community and health providers on the opening of the brand-new health facility providing quality health services to 8,000 rural persons, among them 2, 400 children under fifteen.

The U.S. Department of State, under its Small Reconstruction Projects initiatives, provided United Methodist

Committee on Relief (UMCOR) with \$12,000 in funds for the reconstruction of the outpatient clinic. All renovation works has been implemented thanks to joint efforts of UMCOR and the Adjara Government.

After the ribbon cutting ceremony, UMCOR distributed medical supplies that were donated as part of the U.S. Department of States' humanitarian program.



Gerald Oberndorfer and Levan Antadze, Minister of Health of Adjara, cut the ribbon at the Mukhaeste Outpatient Clinic.

U.S. Coast Guard Provides Technical Support to Georgian Coast Guard

The Export Control and Border Security (EXBS) Georgia arranged for on-site U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) engineering support to oversee the technical aspects of the EXBS funded Georgian Coast Guard (GCG) cutter restoration project, and to cultivate a new vessel maintenance program based on the USCG port engineer (PE) concept.

Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) John Curren, assigned to the USCG Naval Engineering Support Unit, Boston, MA, arrived in Georgia January 3 and spent a month of very long days providing hands-on training to GCG personnel. Utilizing the ongoing repair of GCG patrol vessel P-101, LCDR Curren provided practical training on general project and contract management, vessel inspection, and problem identification, as well as the development of cost estimates. LCDR Curren wrote a Port Engineer job description specifically tailored to the needs of the GCG, and developed comprehensive inspection checklists and report templates. His unique mix of subject matter expertise was indispensable in modifying the proposed design

of the ship repair facility to be built with USG funds, and in refining the selection of machine tools to be purchased.

This engineering assistance is just one part of an EXBS initiative to re-build the post conflict GCG into an effective and self sufficient enforcement organization fully capable of controlling the maritime border of Georgia.



LCDR Curren provides practical instruction on hull and welding inspections.